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*The clash.* A study in nationalities. By William Henry Moore. (New York: E. P. Dutton and company, 1918. 333 p. \$2.50)

Despite the many studies we have had recently of the conflicting forces of race and nationality this description of the conflict between the English and the French in Canada is timely and helpful. The best part of it is its advocacy of a scientific and liberal spirit in the treatment of French Canadians rather than the Prussian method of misrepresentation, group prejudice, and coercion. The ultimate futility and stupidity of brutality and force in adjusting the interests of different national groups is shown clearly by the experience of the French and the English in Quebec and Ontario. The author makes some attempt to analyze and compare the varying characteristics of the two groups and the differences in their impulses along commercial, economic, and religious lines. While this part of the discussion is suggestive, at times it is somewhat unconvincing and unsatisfactory. The influence of the religious factor in the situation is held to be incidental and the importance of the economic factor in the clashing of the two groups is emphasized. The bone of contention in an economic way is the region of New Ontario, a tract of 16,000,000 acres of arable land which the English Canadians apparently do not wish to colonize and which they wish to keep the French from colonizing.

The author suggests that there is a way in which these two nationalities can live under the same political allegiance, keeping the essential elements of group individuality, with a satisfying and developing life for all concerned. But that way is not along the lines of prejudice, hatred, misunderstanding, and fear which have developed up to the present time in the clash between the two groups. In these days of rampant imperialism, when the exploitation of one group by another is the usual thing, a volume like this, showing patience and industry in searching after the widest range of facts and a liberal spirit in interpreting them, is well worth while. But it does not make pleasant reading for the English Canadians.

J. G. S.

*The Spanish conquerors.* A chronicle of the dawn of empire overseas. By Irving Berdine Richman. [Chronicles of America series] (New Haven: Yale university press, 1919. 238 p. \$3.50)

This booklet, like other volumes in its series, is a beautiful example of the printer's art. It contains eight illustrations: one of these is a portrait of Columbus from the Marine museum at Madrid; another is a portrait of Hernando Cortés. Well-executed maps illustrate the voyages of Columbus, the routes of the Spanish explorers and conquerors of Mexico and Central America, and the route taken by Francisco Pizarro from Panama to Cuzco, January, 1531, to November, 1538.

*The Spanish conquerors* begins with a brief chapter entitled "West and east" which devotes special attention to seamen's tales concerning mythical islands in the Atlantic and to the tales of landmen regarding the mysteries of the orient. A well-proportioned sketch of the activities of Columbus follows, in which the influence of Vignaud's critical studies is apparent. The daring achievements of Balboa, "the true precursor of Cortés," are vividly described. An account of the explorations of Córdoba and Grijalva precedes the story of the conquest of Mexico, which is accompanied by a description of Aztec culture. This is naturally followed by a tale of the Spanish conquerors in Central America. The last chapter in the book — and the longest — deals with the conquest of Peru. That chapter contains an interesting description of Inca culture, some suggestive comparisons between Aztec and Inca civilizations, and brief characterizations of the chief actors in the last scene of the Inca drama. Little or nothing is said of the conquest of northern and southern South America. Nothing is said of the transmission of culture or of colonial society.

A bibliographical note contains a short, select list of articles and books respecting the age of the *conquistadores*. Few of those titles are in Spanish. Richman has used the English material upon his theme, but evidently has not used the literature produced by Spanish-American scholars regarding pre-Columbian civilization and the Spanish conquerors. There are points in this booklet which will provoke queries in the minds of critical historical students. Still, with a distinct literary charm, it contains the best description of the Spanish conquest of Mexico and Peru in small compass.

WILLIAM SPENCE ROBERTSON

*The Maya Indians of southern Yucatan and northern British Honduras.*

By Thomas W. F. Gann. [Smithsonian institution, bureau of American ethnology, bulletin 64] (Washington: Government printing office, 1918. 146 p.)

This book, as the title indicates, is an intensive study of two tribes of Maya Indians. The author makes no attempt to tell an interesting story, but one who knows something of the country and its natives will find its numerous illustrations of general interest, aside from their scientific purpose. The first portion of the book is devoted to a general description of customs and social conditions of the present day natives, and the latter portion to a description of the ancient peoples, deduced from a careful excavation of forty-one mounds, together with an accurate description of these mounds and their contents. Some attractive colored plates that show the artistic skill of the ancient Mayas complete the study.